12.05½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Fifth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the Fifth Report. (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications on Privatisation of Basic Telephone Services relating to the Department of Telecommunications.

12.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

Third Report and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the third Report (English and Hindi Versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on "Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes" and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Fifty-second Report

[English]

PROF. I.G. SANADI (Dharwad-South) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the Fifty-second Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on the functioning of the National Library, Calcutta.

12.08 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth Reports

[Translation]

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy (Hindi and English versions) each of the Thirty eight and Thirty-nine reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests- (i) on demonstration by Shri P. Raman on 'herbal fuel; and (ii) on the action taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on Committee's ninth report on Demand's for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, respectively.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

12.09 hrs.

Ban on Collection of Sea Sand and Stone Quarrying in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I request the Minister of Environment and Forests to make a statement on the problems relating to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Shri Manoranjan Bhakta has made a specific demand. So, I have asked the hon. Minister to make a statement.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fully apprised and agree to the concern of Hon. Member. We will try our best to wipe out the difficulties and as soon as possible, we will be able to do something about the problems, which are being faced by the people of Andaman and Nicobar, certainly. Hon. Member knows that we had a meeting with them on 29th Oct. 1996, and the officials of Andaman and Nicobar Administration were also present there. As per the decision taken in that meeting, we have already constituted an expert committee on Dec. 5. Father J.C. Saldhana is the Chairman of this Committee. This Committee comprise of the representatives of Central Ground Water Board and Geological Survey of India. We have given 6 weeks time to the committee and I assure that this Committee will submit its report in the stipulated time i.e. by 31 January. It has been clearly indicated to this committee that they should tell us the areas, from which sand can be extracted and from which area permission can be given for extracted/under ground water. As soon as the report of the Committee is received, we will take necessary decision and problems of the people will be solved. I request to the Hon'ble Minister that he should keep the patience for one month i.e. till the report is received and if they desire, they may put their point before the Committee.